

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, ENRG, NZ

SUBJ: NUCLEAR GENERATION OF ELECTRICITY

1. IN JANUARY 27 MEETING WITH POLCOUNS, NATIONAL PARTY GENERAL DIRECTOR BARRIE LEAY SAID DECISION - WHICH WAS LONG OVERDUE - HAD BEEN MADE TO PROCEED WITH DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR-POWERED ELECTRICITY GENERATING CAPACITY FOR NEW ZEALAND. PROBLEM BEFORE NEW NATIONAL GOVERNMENT IS ONE OF EDUCATING BODY POLITIC BEFORE DECISION IS FORMALLY MADE. EFFECTIVELY, LEAY IS IN CHARGE OF THIS EFFORT.

2. COMMENT - PRIOR TO ELECTIONS LABOUR GOVERNMENT HAD MORE OR LESS DECIDED THAT NUCLEAR GENERATION OF ELECTRICITY WOULD BE NECESSARY IN ORDER TO MEET FUTURE NEW ZEALAND ENERGY DEMANDS. HOWEVER, LABOUR'S "NUCLEAR HANGUP" RESULTED IN A LARGE AMOUNT OF FUZZY THINKING, COUPLING GENERATION OF POWER WITH NPW VISITS AND SOUTH PACIFIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS-FREE ZONE PROPOSAL. UNDER NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, WE CAN EXPECT EMPHASIS TO CHANGE FROM DANGER OF ALL THINGS NUCLEAR TO BENEFITS OF NUCLEAR POWER. AS THIS COMES ABOUT, IT SHOULD HAVE DECIDEDLY BENEFICIAL EFFECT ON PUBLIC'S ACCEPTANCE OF NPW VISITS.

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